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Summer 2026



About This Newsletter



The Association of American Cancer Institutes represents over 100 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada.

Amplifying Your Impact in Washington

The AACI *Public Policy Roundup* is a seasonal snapshot of AACI's ongoing public policy and advocacy activities.

This quarterly publication will take the place of [AACI Commentary](#) four times a year to provide a more focused look at the policy issues shaping the oncology field.

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Summer 2026 Policy Priorities

As Congress heads into the August recess and attention increasingly turns toward the 2026 midterm elections, several major funding and regulatory issues remain front and center for academic cancer centers.

Last month, [AACI submitted institutional comments](#) in response to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed rule, [Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance](#), to express concerns about provisions that could impact merit review and grant delivery. The Senate recently passed a [continuing resolution](#), which would fund the government through December 11 and delay implementation of the proposal. While this is an encouraging development, differences with the House-passed measure are awaiting resolution.

AACI is closely monitoring the 340B Drug Pricing Program and how potential updates may impact cancer centers. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed significant changes to 340B reimbursement through the [CY 2027 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System rule](#), while the Health Resources and Services Administration is proceeding with a revised [340B rebate pilot](#). Meanwhile, [a bipartisan group of senators recently introduced the SUSTAIN 340B Act](#), reflecting continued congressional interest in the future of the program.

While lawmakers work toward final funding levels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

and National Cancer Institute (NCI), AACI continues to advocate for robust, sustained investment in biomedical research and amplify the collective voice of academic cancer centers in Washington.

Advocacy Highlights

FEDERAL POLICY

[AACI Comments on NIH Grant Cap Proposal](#)

AACI submitted a [comment letter](#) on **Monday, August 3** to NIH leadership in response to its request for information on capping the number of simultaneous research project grants per principal investigator. [Read the Letter](#)

[AACI Comments on Proposed Changes to Federal Financial Assistance](#)

On **Wednesday, July 8**, AACI submitted [formal comments](#) opposing proposed changes to the OMB's Uniform Guidance that could significantly affect the NIH, NCI, and other agencies that support cancer research. [Read More](#)

[OVAC Congressional Briefing Highlights Federal Investment in Cancer Research](#)



On **Tuesday, June 23**, AACI participated in a bipartisan congressional briefing on Capitol Hill, hosted by One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC). The briefing highlighted the impact of federally funded cancer research and the critical role of the NCI in advancing progress against the disease. [Read More](#)

[AACI Executive Director Speaks at KO Cancer Act Press Conference](#)



On **Tuesday, May 19**, AACI Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher** joined Representatives **Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)** and **Debbie Dingell (D-MI)**, sponsors of the [Knock Out \(KO\) Cancer Act \(H.R. 3873\)](#), at a press conference to generate support for the bill. [Read More](#)

[Cancer Research Advocates Unite at 2026 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

On **Thursday, May 14**, AACI co-hosted its annual joint Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). Attendees reflected on decades of progress against cancer while embracing the future of cancer research and the lifesaving discoveries it holds. [Read More](#)



2026 AACI/AACR Hill Day

STATE POLICY



The **AACI Public Policy Resource Library** tracks state legislation and policy developments affecting cancer prevention, treatment, research, and access to care.

[Maine Removes Cost Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screenings](#)

Maine enacted legislation removing patient cost-sharing requirements for prostate cancer screenings, expanding access to preventive care. [*Read More*](#)

[Alabama Invests in Rural Cancer Care](#)

Alabama appropriated more than \$8 million to support a statewide cancer digital regionalization initiative as part of a broader rural health transformation effort. [*Read More*](#)

[Oklahoma Expands Coverage for Cancer Imaging and Genetic Testing](#)

New legislation requires insurance coverage for evidence-based cancer imaging and genetic testing services. [*Read More*](#)

[Hawai'i Funds Colorectal Cancer Health Equity Initiative](#)

Hawai'i approved \$1.8 million to support programs addressing colorectal cancer disparities across the state. [*Read More*](#)

Resources

FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATES

*In addition to following state-level policy developments, AACI monitors the status of cancer-related federal legislation, from introduction to enactment, through its **Federal Legislation Tracker**.*

[Cancer Drug Parity Act](#)

The **Cancer Drug Parity Act** was reintroduced in the Senate on **July 15, 2026**.

[Clinical Trial Modernization Act](#)

AACI joined a [letter](#) with nearly 200 patient, public health, and health care professional groups to strongly endorse the [Clinical Trial Modernization Act](#) accompanied by a [press release](#).

[Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act](#)

The [Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act](#) passed in the Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.

IN BRIEF: CANCER CENTER UPDATE CALL GUESTS



Max Cohen

Punchbowl News

July 2026

Key takeaway: Congress is expected to focus on must-pass legislation through the election, with limited opportunities for major health care bills before November.



Carrie Wolinetz, PhD

Lewis-Burke Associates

June 2026

Key takeaway: The proposed OMB grant rule could fundamentally reshape federal grantmaking, making targeted, evidence-based comments especially important.



Jason Kleinman

American Hospital Association

May 2026

Key takeaway: Site-neutral payment proposals remain a persistent threat, and hospitals must continue educating policymakers about their impact on patient access.

Upcoming Events

[2026 Rally for Medical Research](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[Thursday, September 17](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[2026 AACI Government Relations Forum](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[Monday, October 26, 2:00 pm CT](#)
[Chicago, IL](#)

*The Government Relations Forum will be held in conjunction with the [2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), **October 25-27**, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.*

[2027 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[Thursday, May 20, 2027](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

“You are included in critical decisions that drive the elements of change forward for the cancer research landscape, and those benefits are incalculable.”

— Robert A. Winn, MD
Director, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health
Immediate Past President, AACI Board of Directors

Meet the Team: Policy & Government Affairs



Jaren Love, MBA, MPPM

Director of Policy & Government
Affairs



Omasan Richardson

Policy & Government Affairs
Coordinator

[CONTACT US](#)

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